CITY OF
WEST HOLLYWOOD

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Councilmember

May 29, 2019

The Honorable David Chiu
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4112
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **AB 516 (Chiu) Authority to remove vehicles – OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED**

Dear Assemblymember Chiu,

This is to convey the City of West Hollywood's concerns and its position of oppose unless amended for AB 516, which would severely restrict the City's ability to remove a vehicle parked for 72 or more consecutive hours in violation of the City's regulations, or a vehicle with an expired registration beyond 6 months.

The City of West Hollywood shares your concerns about the perpetration of the cycle of poverty for low income individuals, who, when faced with unpaid parking citations or moving violations, and tow-related charge, end up accumulating larger debts and falling further behind. However, local governments must have some legal recourse to manage their local streets and receive payment for outstanding citations.

As revised on May 1, AB 516 does not offer any options to cities for the removal of cars that could have been abandoned on City streets. In addition, cities like West Hollywood would be left without the necessary tool of towing for cars that have failed to pay parking citations, even though the City offers payment plans upon request and according to State law.

Thus, the City proposes the following options for your consideration to accommodate the needs of vehicles' owners and local governments alike:

1. Continue to allow cities to tow cars after cars have been parked for 120 hours or five consecutive days and after the City has issued a warning to the vehicle's owner.
2. Allow cities to tow cars if the owner of the vehicle has failed to make payments agreed upon by the terms of a payment plan between the vehicle's owner and a city.

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The City of West Hollywood is committed to working with you to address this important issue. We look forward to a continuing dialogue with you and your staff.

In the meantime, for the reasons stated above, the City of West Hollywood must regretfully oppose AB 516 unless it is amended.

Sincerely,

John D'Amico,
MAYOR

Cc: Hon Benjamin Allen, SD 26
Hon Richard Bloom, AD 50